**National Calamity**

300. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated damages to human beings, cattles and other properties caused by the recent super cyclone that hit the State of Orissa;

(b) the details of the financial assistance extended by the Union Government by way of loans, advances and grant for the relief and rehabilitation of the affected people;

(c) whether there has been consistent demand from the State Government and from different quarters that this disaster be declared as a national calamity of rare severity and consider the whole assistance as grant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) As per information received from the Government of Orissa, the Super cyclone resulted in loss of 9885 human lives and about 11000 livestock, besides damage to 18.29 lakh houses and cropped area in 18.43 lakh ha.

(b) Rs. 200 crore as ad-hoc assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and advance plan assistance of Rs. 200 crore have been released. Further ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 300 crore has been announced. An advance plan assistance of Rs. 250 crore was also sanctioned to Orissa for the cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is no provision for declaring any calamity as a National Calamity. However, in view of the extensive destruction caused to life and property, the Super cyclone in Orissa has been deemed to be a calamity of rare severity and treated as a national calamity right from the beginning and relief and restoration measures have been taken up on a national scale.

**Crop Production in Rajasthan**

†301. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) percentage of Kharif Crops-adversely affected due to shortage of rain this year in Rajasthan alongwith the cultivation area in the State; and

(b) the total number of farmers benefited during last one year under the Crop Insurance Scheme in Rajasthan alongwith the number of farmers who were given compensation?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.